Letters concerning first library in Wayland

Jan 21, 1848

"..."We had a Town meeting the other day in referance to the Library The Committee chosen at a former meeting made a report. viz. that Mr. Luther Gleasen would build a building on the land in rear of Mr. Mellen's office 25 feet longe 18 wide with 10 feet posts with a flat projecting roofe over att the sides of the building 18 inches with six(?) lights in roof to light the roof sufficently to be covered in side and out with a coat of cement. The room on one side cases for books the other with hooks for potracks(?) etc. the building is to be set up six feet from the ground withn a sellar under it to be very nearley or quite fire proof, to be finished by the first of June, if the Town would give him thirty dollars a year for the use of it After a good deal of talk on the subject and Dea. Draper offered to pay the rent for two years & Mr. Bramhall to give five dollars a year to commence after the second year and give 25 volumes of Books. I said as the very magnificent donation by Dr. Wayland was given to the whole town, I was desireous that the town should act in reference to it as a Town, that all high and low should feel that they had an interest in it. Therefore without any further offers from individuals I moved that the town except of the very generous offer made by Mr. Gleasen & Deacon Draper & that the Chairman of the Committee take a lien of said building as soon as compleated for fiteen years. Which motion was carried almost unanimously. Uncle Wm. moved that the town meeting respond to my motion by riseing which was don. The meeting was harmonious. I told them that as we had no celebrations we could have Library Dedecation. So the Dr. must prepare himself to visit Wayland. I think all will go right now..."

Wayland, Feb. 19, 1949

"...The stone are being drawn for the Library on the spot where the building is to stand..."

Wayland, March 2, 1849

"...The notes (roks?) for our library building are on the spot. and the committee ar selecting the Books."

May 27, 1849

"...Well our Library building is ready for painting and looks very well I said to Judge Mellen what you told your president. he intends to be at the commencement..."

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Wayland, September 24, 1849

"...I was glad to learn by the papers that Dr. Wayland will continue at the head of the institution for the present. I notice that he was in Mass. the other day to silebrate old times..."

Edwin Heard at Brown University to David Heard, Wayland
June 25, 1848

"...How does the Wayland Library get along?.."

March 8, 1849

"...I was very happy to learn that the people had really started towards the erection of a Library building. think it will be a great honor to the town..."

September 12, 1849 or 1850

"...At the meeting of the Overseers Dr. Wayland tended his resignation as President. A Committee was chosen to ask him to withdraw. but he would not. His resignation is to take effect whenever a successor shall be appointed He will probably leave during the present year..."

September 20, 1850

"...Well our new system has now got into operation & I think all parties are well satisfied. I had a talk with Dr. Wayland the other day & he told me that it had surpassed his most sanguine expectations. I had a long talk with him & he was very pleasant- He asked me what the students thought of the system! And how I liked his lectures I, of course, was very much pleased with his lectures..."

March 3, 1851

"...On Saturday I had a long talk with Dr. Wayland about the Library. I gave him the best account I possible could. he

seemed very much pleased. Said that he thought he should come and see it during the next vacation. He is very anxious that they should spend all the money. He said I must say to everyone that I knew or saw SPEND all the money. Begin well and you can have the best Library in the State. He is going to write a letter to "His Honor" advising the Town in regard to the matter..."

March 21, 1851

"...I had another conversation yesterday with him about the Library. He says he takes a great interest in it and wants to have it succeed. He says that he has always contended that if people had books to read, they would read them. But he says some say it will do no go(od?) the (to?) furnish libraries, the common people will not read the Books. He therefore wants to have everything done that can be done to make the Library attractive, Get Books and such ones as will be read and understood. Spend all the money you can get. He said he had just written a letter to "His Honor" expressing his views in regard to the matter." I don't see how the people can refuse to comply with his wishes in regard to it. I hope they will do what he requests them to. If they do I have no doubt but he will come & see it next summer. And he will take much more interest in it then he otherwise will. The town are certainly indebted to him for the Library and I hope they will comply with his request and spend all the money..."

April 18, 1850 or 1851

"...I told Dr. Wayland what Judge Mellen wished me to. he seemed very much pleased. I told him what progress they had made towards having a Library..."

May 1, 1851

"...I have not the least doubt but that Dr. Wayland will visit Wayland during the next vacation. I told him they had voted to spend all the money and he seemed well pleased. The students have just bought a Bust of Dr. Wayland to be put in the college Library..."

Letters concerning
first library in Wayland

Original letters
at Heard House
transcriptions may not
be completely accurate
2/89

David Heard to Edwin Heard, at Brown University
Boston, Jan. 19, 1848

"...hope your President is better - at this time Judge Mellen is holding a Court here in Boston and will untill March I have been in to see him he appears first rate it is the opinion of all that he will make a first rate Judge so you see that Wayland has the honor of a good Judge."

Wayland, Feb 10, 1848

"...I do not speek from my own knowledge but if rumer be true Dr. Wayland will have to hand over that five hundrd dollars. if he is that Noble Harted and benevolent man who has made the offer of five hundrd dollars to our Town for a Library on condition they would raise as much more which they have done what thinck you of Wayland having a thousand dollars for a Library. It is truly noble our popple marched up to the mark like men or most of them. Dr. Wayland if he is to have the honor of this token of regard for our town has confered an honor upon us which will lay us under lasting gratitude and respect to him..."

Wayland,Feb 16,1848

"...Well as to the Generos harted man that gave the Town of Wayland that five hundrd dollars is a mistery yet. but it is a fact that we have raised over five hundred & fifty dollars & that Judge Mellen told me that he had got a check of five hundred dol in his pocket. but he thincks it best to collect ours first I thinck he is right. it is best to be sure but the man I must confess I am in a fog. before I saw the judge I was satisfied that it was Dr. Wayland & thinck so now but am not quite certain he asked if I had thought of Widow Hayward. or Abot Lawrance & so on but gave me no clue to rest satisfied with. but let it be who it may be we shall get the money..."

Wayland, March 9, 1848

"...Mr. Mellen announced that Dr. Wayland was the doner of five hundred dollars for a library - to the Inhabitants of Wayland..."

Wayland, January 21, 1849

LIBRARY-
HISTORY

James Draper
letter

1849

This may certify, to all whom it may concern, that I will pay the town ~~of~~ of Wayland the sum of ~~Fifteen~~ Thirty dollars annually for two years from the time at which the Library building, pro-
-posed to be erected by Mr. Luther Gleason, shall be accepted and used by town, for the "Wayland Library";- which sum shall be appropriated to defray the expense of the Lease of said building.

Wayland Jany 8th 1849.

James Draper